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MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SULPHUR SPRING

Baptist Association.

HELD WITH

DOSSEY'S CREEK CHURCH.

WALKER COUNTY, ALABAMA,

September 20th and 21st, 1876.

OFFICERS:

Eld. W. R. FULMER, Moderator,..... Hanby's Mills, Ala
C. A. BURNS, Clerk,..... Falkville, Ala.
M. McNEAL, Treasurer,..... Hanby's Mills, Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.:
WILLIS AND CHAS. ROBERTS, JOB PRINTERS.
1876.

MINUTES

OF THE

SULPHUR SPRING BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

BAPTIST CHURCH, DOSSEY'S CREEK, WALKER CO., ALA. }
September 22, 1876. }

The Sulphur Spring Association convened at this place for its Fourth Session.

Introductory Sermon by Bro. Wm. McHan. His theme, the foreknowledge of God in Creation and Providence, together with the accountability of mankind; see Acts 15: 18 and the Holy Scriptures generally.

After a short time of refreshment, the delegates assembled for business. Bro. B. F. Loveless, former moderator, being absent, on motion Bro. W. R. Fulmer was called to the chair for organization, who called the body to order, when all bowed in prayer, led by Bro. Corley.

On request of the Moderator, the Clerk, Bro. D. L. James, proceeded to read letters from the churches.

Opportunity was then given for other churches to join the body, on which, letters were presented and read from Beech Grove, (Morgan,) Emaus, Mountain Home, Calcedonia and Union Hill. They being found "orthodox and orderly," were received and the hand of fellowship given.

Proceeded to the election of a Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the election of Bro. W. R. Fulmer and C. A. Burns. On motion Bro. M. McNeal was elected Tressurer.

Opportunity was then given for the announcement of correspondents. Elders P. M. Musgrove and J. C. Shelton being present took seats and were recognized as correspondents of Warrior River Association. Visiting ministers also invited to seats with the body.

Committees were then appointed, to wit:

On Devotion, W. M. Compton, James Tedder, Alfred Burns.

On Documents, C. A. Owen, F. F. Cobb and D. L. James.

On Home Missions, W. J. McCrary, E. R. Bell and Wm. McHan.

On State of Religion, Asa Griffith and E. M. Robinson.

On Sabbath Schools, C. A. Burns, J. M. James and J. M. Sanlin.

On Finance, James Alred and Wm. L. Bradford.

Constitution, Rules of Order, &c., read by Bro. D. L. James. After which adjourned until to-morrow. Prayer by Bro. Bell.

Saturday morning, 9 o'clock; met for business. Prayer by the Moderator.

Order of business proposed and adopted. Also reports on Documents, Domestic Missions, and State of Religion, which were adopted.

Called the roll and read minutes of yesterday.

Enquiry was then made concerning Union Meetings for next year; whereupon it was announced that First District meets at Harmony Friday before Fourth Sabbath in July next; Bro. D. L. James to preach an Introductory Sermon, Bro. E. R. Bell, alternate. Second District, at Pisgah, Friday before the Second Sabbath in July next; Bro. Wm. McIlan to preach an Introductory Sermon, Bro. G. W. Cone, alternate.

Suspended regular order of business, and renewed the call for correspondence, and for letters from churches: Bro. G. W. Cone being present from Mariots Creek Church, was recognized as a delegate without a letter. Also, our venerable brother Elder J. M. Thomas being present took a seat with the body.

On motion, newly organized churches on our southern bounds were added to the First District, and those on northern bounds to the Second District.

On considering the question of correspondence, the present session being *before* the meeting of other Associations adjacent, the appointments of last year were continued, to wit: To Warrior—Elders Wm. McHan, B. F. Loveless, Wm. McCrary, W. R. Fulmer, Bros. John Griffith and M. McNeal, added. The body to meet with Liberty Church, Murphee's Valley, Second Friday in October, proximo. To Canaan—F. F. Cobb, John Griffith, Wm. McCrary and D. L. James, with Elders E. R. Bell and W. B. Corley now added.

On motion, elected by acclamation, Bro. F. F. Cobb to write a Circular Letter for the next Association.

Proceeded to consider queries as presented, all of which were laid upon the table.

Appointed Bro. D. L. James to superintend the printing of these minutes. Recess for dinner. Two o'clock, resumed business. Prayer by Bro. Musgrove.

Proceeded to appoint place for our next session, at Fair-

view Church, three miles west of Hanceville, Blount county. Also, elected Bro. C. A. Owen to preach an Introductory Sermon; Bro. W. R. Fulmer, alternate.

Reconsidered, and took up the Mission Report, and pending the discussion of its suggestions pledges were given by brethren for their churches, and for themselves, as invidnals, to the amount of $105. On the adoption of the Mission Report, on motion, Brethren E. R. Bell and C. A. Owen were nominated and elected to travel and preach to destitute churches and neighborhoods, in and near our bounds, commencing the 1st of Ju

A Circular Letter was then read by its author, the clerk, which was adopted.

Voluntary missionary labor reported by brethren Thomas, McCrary and the Clerk.

Brethren Alred and Bradford reported $24 45 paid for minute printing, etc., which was paid over to Bro. D. L. James. Immediately on which a motion, or rather suggestion was made to pay the Clerk $10 for his services, which he declined, and instruction given, that after paying for a necessary number of these minutes that the Clerk and Bro. James divide the residue of money between themselves as they may think proper.

A vote of thanks was then tendered to the brethren and friends of Dossey's Creek for the kind reception and hospitable treatment given us during our meeting.

It was then announced by the Moderator that there was nothing further in the order of business; on motion a unanimous vote was given for adjournment. Amidst the singing of an appropriate hymn, the parting hand was taken. Then all were called to prayer and thanksgiving, which was led by our venerable Bro. J. M. Thomas. May the Great God of Mercy and Peace, preserve us during another year, and make us humble, useful, loving and forgiving.

WM. R. FULMER, Moderator.

C. A. Burns, Clerk.

REPORTS

PREACHING MINISTRATIONS.

According to suggestions of the Committee on Devotion, a large and attentive congregation was addressed by Bro. E. R. Bell followed by Bro. C. A. Owen. Pleasant and profitable was it to hear the young brethren. Stand (in the grove) occupied by brethren McCrary and others. At night by Bro. Fulmer and the Clerk. Sabbath, preaching in the forenoon by Bro. Musgrove. His theme—the universaly of the atonement of the ever Blessed Savior, and the universality of human intelligence—followed by Bro. McHan. Preaching in the afternoon by Bro. J. C. Shelton. A large and well ordered congregation listened attentively to the several discourses of the day; and the "doctrines, reproofs, corrections and instructions," offered and enforced by the brethren, seemed to furnish the audience pretty "thoroughly."

HOME MISSIONS.

We, your committee on Home Missions, beg leave to report, that in view of the great destitution of the preached Word in our bounds, would recommend that two missionaries be employed to travel and preach to the destitute settlements in our bounds to commence the first of July next, continuing the balance of the year. We would further recommend that pledges be made by brethren of this body for the support of the mission; and, further, that the missionaries be instructed to take up collections on all suitable occasions for their support. The missionaries so appointed be required to keep and report an account of their labors, viz: the number of days engaged, miles traveled, sermons delivered, persons baptized, Sabbath Schools organized and the number of professions of religion witnessed. Respectfully submitted,

W. J. McCRARY, Ch'n.

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STATE OF RELIGION.

We, your committee on the State of Religion report, that from all the information gathered from letters and otherwise, during the session, Religion seems to be prospering in our bounds, and revivals with a liberal ingathering in most of our churches; and we would say to the churches and ministers, to strive together with more energy and fervency of spirit for the next year, that the Blessed Redeemer may be advanced among us.

Respectfully submitted,

W. B. CORLEY, Ch'n.

DOCUMENTS.

We, your committee on Documents ask to report, that we find nothing noteworthy in the letters, except an application by New Bethel and Fairview Churches for the next Association. We respectfully recommend that the next meeting of the body be held with the latter church. We also recommend the appointment of Union Meetings in each District. Respectfully submitted,

C. A. OWEN, Ch'n.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We respectfully suggest for the consideration of this body, and the brethren and sisters in our Association, that inasmuch as there are many orphan children in our bounds, and many good brethren and sisters unable to read the Holy Scriptures to their children, and many of such parents and children living at a long distance from places of preaching; therefore we urge the necessity and the duty of organizing and keeping up a well regulated Sabbath School in every church and school house in the bounds of our Association. Affectionately submitted,

C. A. BURNS, Ch'n.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

To the Churches of the Sulphur Spring Association generally, and every individual member particularly:

DEAR BRETHREN AND SISTERS IN THE LORD: As you expect me to write again this year, I now address you—and will be very short in my writing. The subject of my address will be on the blessing of civil and religious liberty, and our obligations and duties consequent upon such blessings, privileges and opportunities. You will remember that this is the Centennial Year—the one hundredth of our enjoyment of such blessings and privileges. And while the true churches of Jesus Christ and this favored government are jubilant in this great year of joy and thanksgiving, shall we not here, as kindred spirits of those hardy sons of toil, privation and suffering, recognize this hundredth year of soul-liberty in a thank offering to the Great God of Heaven, in a hearty engagement in a great self-sacrificing of our time and our substance—both by the ministry and the churches, in the great vineyard of the Lord.

My dear brethren, let us look about us, and ponder well the times in which we live, and the surrounding needs. Let us ask ourselves the question: "What do we more than others? What is our duty? What are our obligations under the circumstances? What are our obligations? What our ability to do good, yes, to *go about* doing good? What have we—temporally, intellectually and spiritually, that we did not receive from the Great Lord of this favored spiritual vineyard. If it is a fact that we *have* received all these great heaven-born blessings and privileges, let us begin *now*, in this Centennial Year—even at this our annual meeting, begin to inquire for the old paths—the scripture paths—the scripture plan if you have it and like it—of supplying the destitute regions in and near our bounds with the preached Word, and sustain those that go and occupy these destitute regions. Let us all, dear brethren, read all of the second Epistle to the Corinthian Church,

and take that and kindred scriptures for our guide in this great work for the blessed Jesus and his cause.

Your fellow servant in hope and love,

C. A. BURNS.

NOTE.—Protracted sickness of myself and family has delayed the transcript of these minutes until now.

Nov. 25, 1876. CLERK.

Pledges by brethren for churches and themselves: Wm. McHan, for Fairview, $10; D. L. James, for Blount Springs, $10; E. M. Robinson, for Arkadelphia, $10; W. M. Compton, for Sulphur Springs, $10; E. R. Bell, for New Bethel, $10; Tedder & Burns, for Union, $10; McNeal & Griffith, for Harmony, $10; A. J. Short, for Calcedonia, $5; J. W. Heatherly, for himself, $5; Roberts & Sanlin, for Cane Creek, $5; Maxwell & Duncan, for Emaus, $5; Chaffin & Anderson, for Pisgah, $5; Burns & Bowers, for Beech Grove, $5; John A. Bates, for himself, $5. Total $105.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POST OFFICE.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Sab. of Preaching	Baptized	Rec'd by Letter	Restored	Dis'd by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Total	Money sent	
1st District.														
New Bethel	W J McCrary	W A Mayfield	Warrior Station	W J McCrary, E R Bell, T J Creal	1	6	18		2		2	74	4	00
Cane Creek	James Nabors	J C Carlisle	" "	J M Saulin, M Roberts, J C Carlisle			5		2			35	1	50
Harmony	W R Fulmer	M McNeal	Hanby's Mill	W R Fulmer, M McNeal, A R Griffith	4	5			11	2		37	1	75
Arkadelphia	" "	F F Cobb	Arkadelphia	E M Robinson, F F Cobb, J M James	3		1					28	1	50
Sulphur Springs	W J McCrary	Isaac Compton	Blount Springs	W M Compton, M J Compton, J Rice	1	6	7		1		1	45	1	35
Shoal Springs	P M Musgrove	S J Coxe	" "	D L James	1							13	1	00
Cleveland	E R Bell	B Green	Warrior Station	J J Jolly A Short		4	7					20	2	00
2d District.														
Good Hope	B F Lovelace	A J Manning	Cullman	Wm A Livingston	1			7	5			17		95
Beech Grove (B)	" "	W F Parsons	Hanceville	W F Parsons, Thos Sawyers	3				2	1	1	22	1	00
Dossey's Creek	J C Shelton	W J Morgan	Garrison's	Jas Alred, Jas Miller, W J Morgan	4	3	4	1		1	1	40		65
Pisgah	J Heatherly	J H Anderson	Hanceville	B Chaffin	2		1					28		67
Marlots' Creek	G W Cone	W R Martin	Bangor	G W Cone	1	5	3					11		
Union	P M Musgrove	W L Burns	"		2			2			1	61	1	35
Fairview	W McHan	A J Edwards	Hanceville	W McHan, A J Edwards	3	11	7					51	1	50
Beech Grove (M)	Willhite & Burns	C L Vanzant	Falkville	C A Burns, John R Bowers	3	1	3			1		51	1	25
Emmaus	Owen & Burns	J R Maxwell	Cullman	C A Owen, T W Maxwell J J Duncan	3	32	10		4	2		42	1	15
Union Hill	Tant & Owen	E F Lynn	Cullman	W R Pullen, J K Shaffer	3	8	7					22	1	00
Mountain Home	Owen & Burns	J R Shafer	"	E FLyn, Jos Murphee, A J Livingston	2	4	1					16	1	50

Arkadelphia Richards
Blount Springs
added to second district